

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 11-13, 18 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 3, 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner objected to insufficient antecedent basis for limitations in the rejected claims. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to provide antecedent basis. In particular, claim 3 has been amended to remove the definite article “the” before the limitation ---parameters---. Claim 7 has been amended to remove the definite article “the” before the limitation ---policy parameters---. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 5 and to add the limitation “policy enabled” before the term ---node---. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 5, to remove the term “independent” and to insert the limitation “policy enabled” before the term --node---. No new matter is added.

In view of the amendments, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3, 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 14, 17-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hind et al. (US6585778) (hereinafter “Hind”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In a general sense, embodiments of the present invention and the Hind system may both feature a middle tier or intermediary element. However, the function and role of such a middle tier or intermediary element differs substantially between the embodiments of the present invention and the Hind system.

The intermediary element in Hind plays the role of a dumb proxy that forwards requests for data from the first tier to the appropriate third tier system and then returns the results to the first tier.

This differs from the present approach in that our second tier system plays a much greater role than just serving as a forwarding proxy. In a traditional software policy solution, including Windows Group Policy, a client will include a policy component that is responsible for managing policy on the client. The policy component is responsible for requesting from a central server the set of policy settings that should be applied to the client. These policy settings are delivered as a collection of raw data sets. It is the responsibility of the policy agent to merge

and interpret these data sets prior to distributing the results to the client applications that they work with.

In the present approach, the merging and interpretation has been moved to the second tier system from the first tier system. This provides two significant advantages. First, it simplifies the first tier system's policy component since it is now responsible only for distributing the results received from the second tier system. Second, it gives the managers a means of creating a single system responsible for the merging and interpretation of policy settings for the heterogeneous clients of the first tier.

Another distinction between the present approach and Hind is in the functionality provided. Hind discloses a system that receives a request for information, forwards the request to the system that can answer it, and returns the results back to the requesting system. Hind is concerned in particular with applying a "data policy" at an intermediate point in the delivery chain for delivering such requested data or information from a server application to a client. The Hind system uses an intermediary as the point at which it applies or enforces data policy, whereby a different data policy may be applied to each different tagged data item. (Col. 3, lines 37-39; 60-63; col. 4, lines 1-4.)

In contrast, with the present approach, a policy request is received from a first system; the policy request is processed in a second system; a policy is retrieved for the first system; a final policy content is processed from the policy; and the final policy content is sent to the first system.

With that background, the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are now addressed.

In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), a reference must disclose each element of the rejected claim. With respect to base claim 1, the Hind reference does not disclose or suggest "providing the policy to the first system." As noted above, Hind is concerned with applying a data policy to data items at an intermediary point. In contrast, the invention of claim 1 relates to retrieving the policy for a first system in a second system in response to a request of a policy for the first system, and then providing that policy to the first system. There is no policy being provided back to the client system in Hind. Rather, Hind is providing the results of a data policy applied to particular data items.

With respect to base claim 14, the Hind reference does not disclose or suggest “sending the final policy content to the first system.” As noted above, Hind relates to applying data policy to data items at an intermediary. In contrast, the invention of claim 14 is directed to receiving a policy request from a first system and processing the policy request in a second system. Further, a policy is retrieved for the first system and a final policy content is processed from the policy. The final policy content is sent to the first system. No such policy content is sent to the client system in Hind.

With respect to base claim 23, Hind does not disclose or suggest “providing for the transfer of the policy attributes to the particular node making the request” nor “providing for the implementation of the policy attributes on the particular node making the request.” The preamble of claim 23 recites in part “method for implementing policies for the administration of nodes . . . to be policy enabled.” Hind is not concerned with providing or implementing policy attributes at a node that has requested policy for the purpose of being policy enabled.

Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-13, 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hind in view of Hegelson et al. (US6643652) (hereinafter “Hegelson”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 12-13 have been cancelled. Claims 15-16 are dependent from base claim 14. Thus, the foregoing remarks apply. As such, the rejection is believed overcome.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

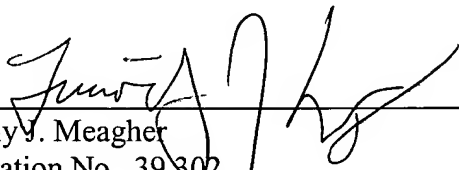
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By


Timothy J. Meagher
Registration No. 39,302
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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